



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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April 30, 1985

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Navy ↓
JEL

Mr. Stephen J. Solarz
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Solarz:

Thank you for your letter dated March 25, which I received on April 12, asking for an opinion about nuclear weapons safety regarding the possibility of Tomahawk cruise missiles on the Iowa's SAG.

I am not a nuclear weapons engineering expert; so cannot make a primary judgement on the safety analysis. However, I have no reason to question the expertise, integrity, and self concern for safeguards on the part of the responsible weapons laboratories, nor to doubt the responses you have received from the DoE, OSD, and the Navy. Nevertheless, I have not made any independent study of the questions you raise.

We live in a world fraught with risk -- else we would not burden ourselves with the frightfulness of a nuclear deterrent. To be able to live as confidently about the threat of nuclear attack as we can about the risk of weapons accidents, would be a great accomplishment of our military and foreign policy.

I hope those overarching problems continue to claim the priority of your attention and I would be pleased to talk with you informally about these themes.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

cc: M. Hughes.